



## College of Massage Therapists of Ontario

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### Discipline Hearing Summary

#### Massimo Park, RMT (Toronto, ON) March 6, 2018

##### Decision

On March 6, 2018, the Discipline Committee found that Mr. Massimo Park, a Registered Massage Therapist (RMT), committed acts of professional misconduct in that he:

1. sexually abused a client;
2. contravened a Standard of Practice of the profession or a published standard of the CMTO;
3. abused a client verbally or physically;
4. practised the profession while his ability to do so was impaired by a substance;
5. engaged in conduct or performed an act relevant to the practice of the profession that, having regard to all the circumstances, would reasonably be regarded by registrants as disgraceful, dishonourable or unprofessional; and
6. engaged in conduct that would reasonably be regarded by registrants as conduct unbecoming a Massage Therapist.

##### Penalty Order and Cost Award

The Discipline Committee's order included the following:

1. Mr. Park was reprimanded by a Panel of the Discipline Committee. The fact of the reprimand and the text of the reprimand is to appear on the public register. (The reprimand can be read below.)
2. Mr. Park's Certificate of Registration was revoked.
3. Mr. Park was required to reimburse the CMTO for funding provided for therapy and counselling to the clients that he sexually abused under the College's program as set out in section 85.7 of the *Health Professions Procedural Code* being Schedule 2 to the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991*. Mr. Park was required to post security in the amount of \$3,500.00 for this funding.

4. Mr. Park was required to pay to the CMTO costs in the amount of \$3000.00 within six (6) months of the date of the Discipline Committee's order.

The complete Decision and Reasons will be available online on the Canadian Legal Information Institute (CanLII) [website](#).

### **Reprimand Delivered to Mr. Park**

The following reprimand was delivered by the Chair of the Panel of the Discipline Committee:

This morning we have convened to issue a reprimand to Mr. Park. I note that the Registrant is not here to receive the reprimand, which was actually scheduled for yesterday, and yesterday we were here and he did not show up. So this morning in his absence we will proceed with the reprimand.

So Mr. Park, the Panel finds your behaviour to be reprehensible. It is always the responsibility of the healthcare provider to maintain the boundaries of the therapeutic relationship.

Your actions have demonstrated a clear disregard for the importance of this vital relationship, and that you have failed to respect the power imbalance that exists between a healthcare provider and your patients. The Panel is extremely concerned by the pattern of boundary violations which led to the sexual abuse of your patients.

Your actions resulted in harm to two patients in ways that may not fully be apparent at this time. Sexual abuse can have a profound impact and often results in scars that may never fully heal. It is never acceptable for a healthcare professional to engage in drug use during the tenancy of a therapeutic treatment.

It is also dishonourable, disgraceful and extremely unprofessional to procure and participate in the use of a prohibited substance within the patient-therapist relationship. Your conduct demonstrated a wilful disregard for your patient safety, and has eroded the public's confidence in this profession.

Revocation is reserved for the most serious and egregious breaches of professional misconduct. The sexual abuse of patients will not be tolerated by the College or by the profession, and is reflected in the College's Zero Tolerance Policy.